



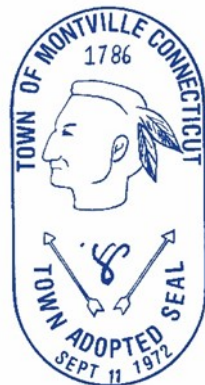
## **TOWN OF LEDYARD**

### **CONNECTICUT**

**741 Colonel Ledyard Hwy.**

**Ledyard, CT 06339**

**(860) 464-3222**



## **TOWN OF MONTVILLE**

### **CONNECTICUT**

**310 Norwich-NL Turnpike**

**Uncasville, CT 06382**

**(860) 848-3030**

March 22, 2022

Connecticut General Assembly

State Capitol

Hartford, CT 06106-1562

### **RE: Written testimony for Raised Bill 5474**

The Towns of Ledyard and Montville write in strong opposition to Raised Bill 5474 “AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON CERTAIN INDIAN LANDS.” As two municipalities that have the greatest impact from the gaming operations at Mashantucket (MPTN) and Mohegan (MTGA) respectively, this proposed revenue loss will have deep, adverse impacts to both towns. Annually, Ledyard stands to lose more than \$600,000 and Montville nearly \$700,000. The Town of Ledyard, with support from the CT Attorney Generals Office brought legal action against a private business enterprise conducting business at Mashantucket for non-payment of taxes of business equipment and fixtures only (no real estate taxes are levied). MPTN entered the case, effectively as an Intervenor. The Federal case took 7-8 years to litigate but ultimately, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court ruled the Town of Ledyard had the right, under Federal Law to impose such a tax. The Town of Montville and MTGA entered into a settlement agreement with the Federal Government to allow the Town of Montville to also impose such a tax.

The impact these gaming/entertainment facilities provide is both positive and negative. Each provided much-needed jobs during the Great Recession. Both municipalities had an impact locally when the COVID-19 pandemic hit with increased need for services as the result of layoffs. The impacts to our roads, bridges, police, emergency services and schools is tremendous. Both municipalities doubled the size of their police forces since the opening of each facility, with increased annual costs to the taxpayers of each municipality exceeding \$1,000,000 for policing alone. Both municipalities experienced substantial changes to their respective school systems as well. Ledyard educates approximately 150 children residing on the MPTN reservation, with an annual net cost of \$1,665,000. Additionally, SPED costs for 20% of those pupils adds approximately \$1,500,000 annually. Montville experiences substantial added costs with English as a second language in their school system. Translators are required in many situations to allow communication to occur effectively. Additional public infrastructure and bussing costs have been required to address increased pedestrian traffic and public transportation needs.

We value the relationships with the tribal communities, while recognizing the increased demands placed on critical infrastructure, emergency services and educational systems come at a substantial cost to the taxpayers. The two municipalities daily operations are lean by necessity. Disallowing through legislation the municipalities rights to collect personal property taxes on private enterprise business at each facility will have profound adverse impacts to both municipalities with steep reductions of services and educational opportunities sure to follow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F B Allyn".

Fred B. Allyn III  
Mayor, Town of Ledyard

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ronald McDaniel".

Ron McDaniel  
Mayor, Town of Montville

Cc: Ledyard Town Council, Montville Town Council, Sen. Cathy Osten, Sen. Heather Somers, Sen. Paul Formica, Reps Cheesman, McCarty, France, Conley, Ryan..